

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Face masks or coverings are expected in the entry area before and after the service.

Once you are seated, masks may be removed.

However, if four or more cases of Covid-19 come to Fergus County we will require face masks be worn throughout the worship service.

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewistownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
August 5 & 9, 2020 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

(*Stand)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives.**

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE: PSALM 85:8-13 (responsively)**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to
you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

O God our defender,

C **storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your
people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and
preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD *Word of God, Come Down on Earth (vs 1)*

*Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

This scene is part of the Elijah story that is the center point of the books of Kings. It recounts a low moment in Elijah's life, when he flees to the southern city of Beer-sheba from Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab of Israel, who is putting to death the prophets of Yahweh. As Elijah hides, God speaks to him both with words and in silence to reassure him, and then sends him back to continue his prophetic career.

A reading from 1 Kings.

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you

arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

A reading from Romans.

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33**

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

***CREED**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING SONG: As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.*

*1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain*

*2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain*

*OFFERING PRAYER

P God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD *O Lamb of God*

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

COMMUNION

Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MINISTRY OF ZION

***BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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As the Grains of Wheat

Serving Us:

Pr. Lynne Ogren

Pianist: 8/5 – Rhonda Kepner; 8/9 – Meryl McKenna

Ushers: Roger & Becky Woltermann

Lector: Roger Woltermann

Communion Assistants:

Disciples: All the Baptized

Website: www.zionlewistownelca.com

Contact us: 538-5082 zionelca@midrivers.com

Welcome! Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe (Pr. Lynne's mother)

Homebound Members: LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau

Social Concern for August: Montana Synod Covid 19 Relief Fund

The Montana Synod has established a Covid-19 Disaster Grant Fund for congregations who are facing challenges to pay expenses due to reduced giving, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. If you would like to contribute, please make your check to Zion and note "Covid-19" on the memo line.

Week of 8/10 – 8/16/2020

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| Wed | 6:00pm | Worship |
| Sun | 9:30am | Worship |

Love, INC. Prayer Walk, Wednesday, August 12, 4-8pm. The walk begins at the First Christian Church goes down Main Street and ends back at the First Christian Church.

Altar Guild is in need of volunteers for the months of October 2020, January 2021 and July 2021. The primary task is to prepare for Holy Communion each week. For more information about he duties, contact Avis, 538-9401, or the office.

Lutheran World Relief continues to serve vulnerable individuals and communities all over the world during and in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Zion’s members enabled the church to ship 18 baby care kits, 72 quilts, 38 personal care kits and 60 school kits in July.

If you would like to contribute items for these kits, a list of items is available on the narthex table and also on the church website. Items can be delivered to church on Sundays or in the morning on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Serving on Staff:
Secretary: Lana Papp
Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz
Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson
Rainbow Choir Director: Debby Shobe
Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker